

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic West Washington Street Pumping Station

and or common West Washington Street Pumping Station

2. Location

street & number 801 West Washington Street _____ not for publication

city, town Indianapolis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Sixth

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Indianapolis

street & number City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis _____ vicinity of _____ state Indiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Recorder

street & number City-County Building

city, town Indianapolis _____ state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington Street Pumping Station is located in the heart of the 19th century industrial area of Indianapolis just west of the central business district. The building is located on a modest site of 1.79 acres. The rectangular site is bounded on the north by West Washington Street, the former National Road; on the east and south by the Beveridge Paper Company, a multi-storied brick industrial complex constructed at the turn of the 20th century; and on the west by the White River. The site gently slopes down from the north to the south and the Pumping Station is located at the south center of the grassy plot.

The Pumping Station, built by the Water Works of Indianapolis, became operational in the summer of 1871 and was the only city water pumping station until 1890 when an additional facility was built at Riverside. Originally, the station was in the form of an inverted T with the vertical leg of the T laid out on a north-south axis, projecting northward from the cross bar which is laid out on an east-west axis. The T-shaped brick building was defined by a hipped roof with pediments centered on the compass points of the composition. The pediments on the eastern and western facades were denticulated and centered over large round arched openings. The center pediment on the southern facade was also denticulated. The roof was capped by a square, central tower, with paired round-arched windows on each elevation, terminated by a simple straight sloped mansard roof.

Sometime after 1909 the building was altered. A precise date and the extent of these alterations is difficult to assess since only one historic photograph taken in 1908 and little written documentation remain. The projecting north-south wing, the central tower and pediments have been removed and the roof was modified.

As it exists today, the building is just over two-thirds of its original size, yet it is much more than a utilitarian industrial building. It is a well-proportioned rectangular building (42'-0" x 101'-0"), with distinctive brick detailing, subtly articulated piers and handsome round arch openings. The facade or north elevation is divided into three distinct units. The eastern section probably reflects most accurately the building's original wall treatment. This section has four narrow recessed round headed brick arches. The easternmost arch is a blind arch set in a projecting corner pier. The center two are glazed and grouped under a broad elliptical brick arch. The western arch defines a single glazed opening. The wooden window sash are round headed, four over four, double hung units of white poplar and appear to be the original. The central section of this facade is subtly projected and set off with brick piers with simple Indiana limestone caps, and supporting a narrow band of brick on which is hung metal lettering reading "INDIANAPOLIS Water Company". Below are two widely spaced round-arched double door entrances with three-over-three, glazed tympanums. Flanking brick balustrades, capped with stone, frame the concrete stairs down to each entrance. A slightly projecting hipped roof terminates the central block. The west part of the north elevation is somewhat shorter in length than its eastern counterpart and has a wide elliptical arch similar to the one in the eastern unit, but it contains a garage door entrance as opposed to windows. The west corner pier has a narrow arched recess and is similar to the east corner of the facade, but is the result of the rebuilding of the entire west corner of the building.

The south elevation is a nine bay expression of tall, narrow round-arched openings. Five double-hung sash, with four-over-four lights, flood the interior with natural light. The outer two arched openings at both ends of the south facade have been filled with brick panels.

The building is terminated by a simple hipped roof of slate. Flashing, gutters, and downspouts are of copper. The deep copper gutter has a cyma recta shape with a base and functions as a continuous cornice. The structure has a 44'-0" ceiling height to the ridge of the hipped roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-1871 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington Street Pumping Station is significant as one of the oldest extant public structures in the city, and the oldest of its type, and for its role in the development of a city water supply system.

After the failure of the Indiana Central Canal as both a millrace and a transportation system, it was purchased by the Water Works Company of Indianapolis, organized in 1870 by James O. Woodruff (founder of Woodruff Place, National Register 1972). The company constructed the West Washington Street Pumping Station in 1870-1871. The station relied on the canal to drive water wheels which pumped water, in contrast to a gravity system, and provided Indianapolis, then with a population of 50,000, with its first public water service. Unfortunately, public response was disappointing, and the company was sold at a Sheriff's sale in 1881 to the Indianapolis Water Company. It continued to serve as the city's only water pumping station until 1890.

In 1908 the station's efficiency was improved with the installation of hydraulic turbines connected directly to three centrifugal pumps, each with a capacity of 4,500,000 gallons per day. The pumping station used the canal's water as a source of power until 1969, when the building was closed.

Plans are to utilize the building in the development of the proposed White River Park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Water Service: Indianapolis Water Company", Indianapolis, Indiana. Indianapolis Water Company, n.d. (1933).

"The Lower Central Canal: A Preservation Program". Indianapolis, Indiana. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1975.

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.79

Quadrangle name Indianapolis West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	7	0	9	3	0	4	4	0	1	9	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David R. Hermansen, Consultant

organization James Associates, Architects & Engineers date March 23, 1980

street & number 2828 East 45th Street telephone (317) 547-9441

city or town Indianapolis state Indiana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 13, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

Ample windows flood the interior, which is one huge space with an open mezzanine, defined by a handsome iron rail with a wrought iron balustrade, running the entire length of the interior along the north wall. The mezzanine affords an excellent overview of the pumping machinery located along the south wall at the lower or main floor level. The pumping machinery installed in 1908 remains relatively intact. The overhead crane is supported by built-up iron columns. This fine space is defined by thin membered steel poloncean type trusses with steel purlins and a wood roof deck.

Despite several modifications to the original fabric of the building, it is a well proportioned structure with fine brick detailing. Its smaller scale contrasts sharply with the larger industrial structures adjacent to it, but it is visually prominent because of its entourage-free site. Its round arched openings and wall arches set it off from the less sensitively designed surrounding buildings. Indeed, it is a building of considerable architectural distinction.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

"Indiana Central Canal-Indianapolis Division", Indianapolis, Indiana. Indianapolis
Historic Preservation Commission, 197?

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 3

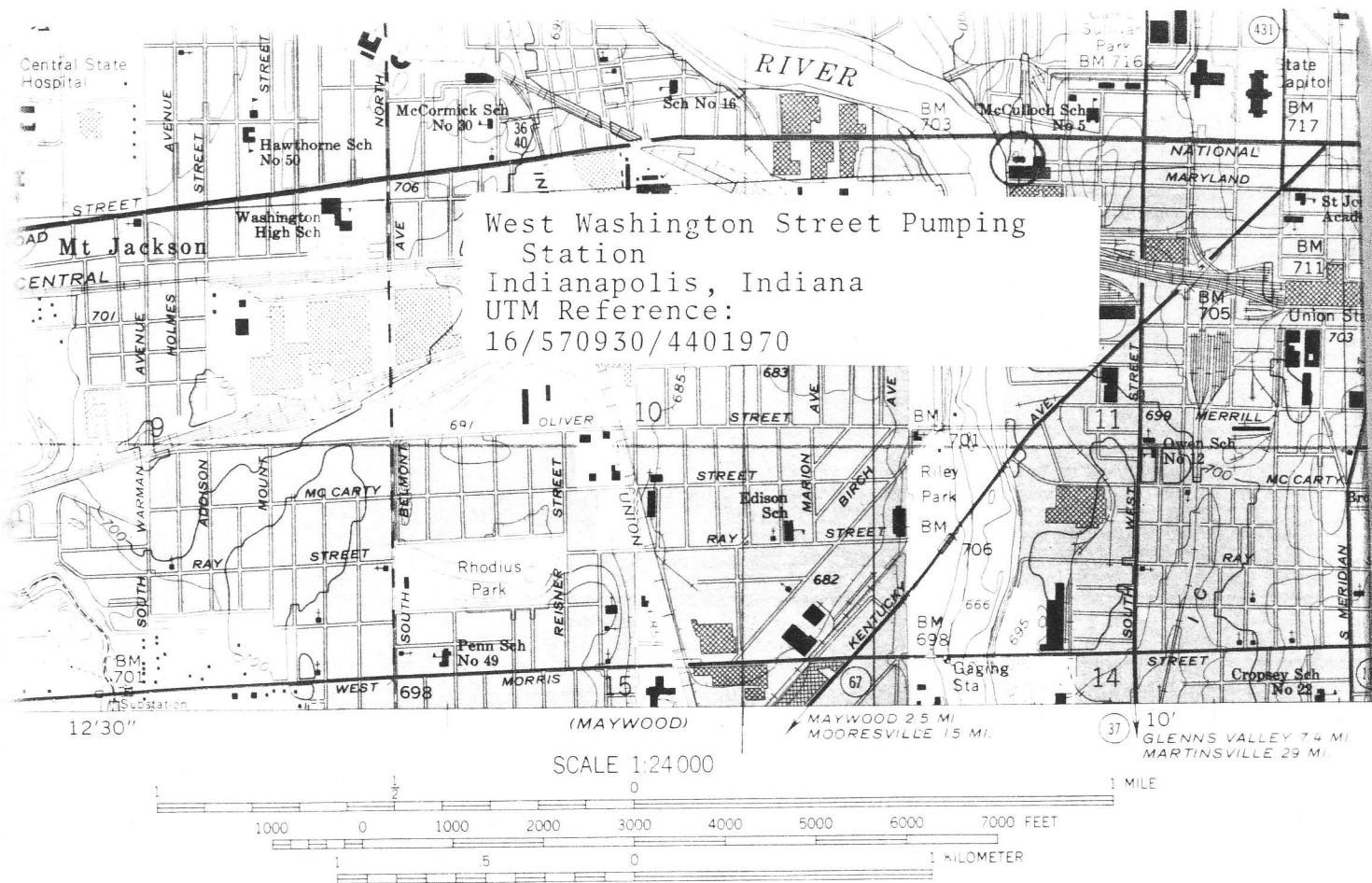
Verbal boundary: All of Out Lot One Hundred Forty-Five (145) in the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, except the two (2) excepted parcels that are described as follows:

Excepted Parcel No. 1

Beginning at a point on the north line of Maryland Street 295.5 feet west of the south east corner of Out Lot 145; thence east on the north line of Maryland Street 295.5 feet to the said south east corner of said Out Lot; thence north with the east line of said Out Lot 420 feet to the south line of Washington Street; thence west with the south line of Washington Street 110 feet; thence south parallel with said east line of said Out Lot 251.2 feet to a point in the south margin of the canal spillway margin 32.16 feet to a point on a stone wall located in said spillway margin 161.35 feet north of the north line of Maryland Street; thence north of west with said spillway margin 19.8 feet to a point on the canal waste-way wall 167.2 feet north of the north line of Maryland Street; thence south of west 141.74 feet to a point on the tail race wall 154.9 feet north of the north line of Maryland Street and 301.4 feet west of the east line of said Out Lot; thence east of south to the place of beginning.

Excepted Parcel No. 2

Beginning at a point on the north line of Maryland Street 295.5 feet west of the Southeast corner of said Out Lot 145; thence west of north to a point on the canal tail race wall 154.9 feet north of the north line of Maryland Street and 301.4 feet west of the east line of said Out Lot; thence south of west at an interior angle of 56 degrees 53 minutes with said first mentioned line 100.00 feet to a point on said tail race; thence west to the thread of the stream of White River, as existing on August 2, 1915; thence southerly with the said thread of the stream of said river to the center line of Maryland Street produced; thence east with said center line of Maryland Street produced and Maryland Street to a point opposite the place of beginning; thence north 20 feet to the place of beginning.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST